

# George Thomas Leonard

Quebec Regiment, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canada

1896 – 1916



George Thomas Leonard was the elder brother of John Henry Leonard who also lost his life during the war. George Leonard was born in Mursley on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1896, the son of Thomas Leonard, a shepherd, and his wife Emily (nee Boughton). They had four other children, Sarah Emma (1888), Rose Annie (1891), Jim (1894) and John Henry (1898).

At the time of the 1901 census, aged five years, he was visiting his maternal grandfather, John Boughton, the Swanbourne sub postmaster, living at 3, Winslow Road. His immediate family were still living in Mursley.

At the time of the 1911 census, George, aged 15 was living at 3, Winslow Road with his Aunt, Polly Boughton, who had taken over the role of subpostmistress, her father having died in 1906. He was working as a ploughboy on a farm. His older sister, Sarah, was also living with him working as an assistant in the post office.

At some point between 1911 and 1915, he emigrated to Canada, as he enlisted there on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1915, to serve in the Canadian Infantry in Walkerton, Ontario, joining the Quebec Regiment, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian expeditionary Force. The unit moved to France in 1915 as the senior battalion of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade in the Canadian Division (later 1st Canadian Division). The unit remained a component of the division for the remainder of the war. It eventually drew reinforcements from the 20th Canadian Reserve Battalion.

George's death is recorded as being on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916, and he was buried at the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, Ieper (Ypres), Belgium.

He is also commemorated on a headstone erected in Swanbourne Cemetery, along with his brother John and cousin Nimrod Boughton.



It also seems likely that it is his name which appears on a plaque that used to be situated in the Oddfellows Hall in Well Street, Buckingham, though his membership could only have been for a very short time before he emigrated.

